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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON TARGETED ASSASSINATIONS AND GUANTANAMO
SUICIDES

Editorial Commentary on Targeted Assassinations

-- "Israel is pushing the Palestinian people towards point of explosion"

Center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustour (06/14) editorializes: "This continued Israeli criminality against the Palestinian people in Gaza can only be an organized and planned methodology to push the security situation towards the direct confrontation, giving Israel room to implement its political plan for unilateral separation, nullifying Palestinian rights and stopping all activity on the peace settlement front. Israel felt great embarrassment from the Hamas government's exercise of control on the Palestinian Israeli arena since its election, and so the situation had to be exploded in a manner that would guarantee an uproar and hence a confrontation.... There are no wise people in the Israeli government. There is no respect for the diplomatic efforts that are being exerted to reach a suitable settlement that upholds the rights of the Palestinian people in the context of international legitimacy. It is clear that the Israeli policy is sly and long term, working meticulously to achieve two objectives: increasing division within Palestine and raising the chance of an angry Palestinian military reaction that would put the entire settlement issue back in square one, allowing Israel to implement its own political scheme.... The Palestinian people need a unified political address in the face of this very clear and organized Israeli approach.

-- "Self-defense!"

Columnist Hilmi Asmar writes on the inside page of center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustour (06/14): "The United States refused to condemn the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, which led to the killing of innocent women and children, and considered their killing as part of 'Israel's right to defend itself!'.... This means there is nothing new in the U.S. position. Even if the Israeli occupation kills all the children of Palestine, tortures the old men in the streets, rips the bodies of women and children in the beds ... I will say what I said before, this is the position of the spokesperson of Bush's Department of State. There is nothing new here, Arabs. In the American balance, your blood is cheaper than wastewater. The position of the U.S. administration carries nothing new, fine, and why not? Are not the American soldiers committing the same in Ishaqi, Haditha and tens of other places in Iraq? America and Israel are redefining the concept of self-defense. Others have this right too, which means that the world turns into a jungle and

all international charters and protocols are ripped as if they are nothing more than toilet paper! Have the world's wise people ever asked themselves about the reaction that will be formed in the hearts of the Arab and Muslim youth when they watch the cost-free massacres of death? The powerful politicians arrogant with their strength and madness are dragging the world into the abyss. They are making terrorism that only creates anger, madness and extremism.

They are stamping with their feet all values of justice, democracy and reform. They are mocking moderation and killing the voices of the moderates. Why wonder then? Wait for these people's own self-defense. What have they got to lose?"

Editorial Commentary on Guantanamo Suicides

-- "Guantanamo: witness to a civilization!"

Columnist Hussein Rawashdeh writes on the op-ed page of center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustour (06/14): "Guantanamo has become a witness to the misery of the western civilization that is in cahoots with the American immoral model of dealing with human beings.... It is sad that the voice of the Islamic world, whose own citizens are being targeted by these inhumane practices, is still absent while the voices of the western public opinion rise in condemnation of this ugly behavior and attempt to pressure the U.S. administration to shut down the prison or try the prisoners according to American laws. We do not want to wonder about the extremism that America is making, nor about its bafflement about the Islamic world's increasing hatred of its policies, nor about its recklessness towards human rights and dignity. We only hope that those who admire the western model would recognize this 'illusion' of civilization and not hesitate to condemn and reject it."

RUBINSTEIN